

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-17 and 29-36 are pending in this application and presented for examination. Claims 18-28 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-17 and 32 have been allowed. Claim 29 has been amended. Claims 33-36 are newly added. No new matter has been introduced with the foregoing amendments and new claims. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. FORMALITIES

Claim 29 has been amended. The amendment to claim 29 finds support throughout the specification, for example, on page 5, lines 16-17: "aligned conductive region, such as an aligned conductive material or particle." Further support is found at page 6, line 22 to page 7, line 10, as well as at page 8, line 27 to page 9, line 8.

Claims 33-36 are newly added. Support for claims 33-34 is found, for example, on page 9, lines 30-31. Support for claim 35 is found on page 10, in Table 1, last entry. Support for claim 36 is found, for example on page 14, lines 7-8. Thus, no new matter has been introduced. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amended claim and new claims be entered.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,238,729 ("Debe"). To the extent the rejection is applicable to the amended set of claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner alleges that Applicants' arguments filed on July 10, 2003 are not germane to claims 29-31 since these claims do not have the limitation of "wherein said aligned conductive material comprises aligned distinct particles." In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 29 to recite "wherein said aligned conductive material comprises aligned distinct particles." As such, each and every element as set forth in amended claim 29 is not found in the Debe reference, and thus, the sensor array claimed in amended claim 29 is not

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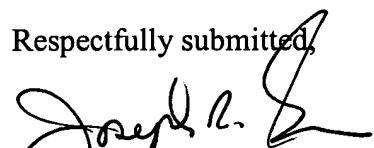
anticipated by Debe. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection, and send this application to issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments
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